



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Yulun Wang et al.

Art Unit : 3739

Serial No. : 10/722,837

Examiner : Ahmed M. Farah

Filed : November 26, 2003

Title : MULTI-FUNCTIONAL SURGICAL CONTROL SYSTEM AND SWITCHING
INTERFACE

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INTERVIEW SUMMARIES AND AMENDMENT IN REPLY TO ACTION MAILED
MAY 17, 2005

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September 16, 2005

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INTERVIEW SUMMARIES

The applicant thanks Examiner Farah for the courtesy of the telephonic interview held on August 24, 2005 with Clint Martin and Mark Kirkland attending as the applicant's representatives. The topic of the interview was U.S. Patent No. 6,278,975 ("Brandt"), and in particular, whether Brandt teaches or suggests voice selection of a surgical apparatus combined with mechanical control of the surgical apparatus.

The applicant's representatives and the Examiner were in agreement that Brandt does not teach or suggest switching a mechanical input device between output channels using a speech interface. The Examiner recommended that the applicant amend the claims to make the functional interaction between the speech interface and the mechanical input device clearer. In particular, the Examiner recommended amending the last element of claim 1, "a speech interface *configured to receive* voice commands and *provide* command signals to the select channel..." to, "a speech interface *receiving* voice commands and *providing* command signals to the select channel..."

The applicant also thanks Examiner Farah for the courtesy of the telephonic interview held on February 9, 2005 with Clint Martin and Mark Kirkland attending as the applicant's representatives.

The first topic of the interview was the office action mailed October 20, 2004. The applicant's representatives noted that the text of the rejections did not appear to reflect the pending claims. It was agreed that the applicant's representatives would reply to the office action and that no replacement office action would be mailed.

The second topic of the interview was a petition for an extension of time that was filed with the present application that was intended to be applied to the parent application. It was agreed that the applicant's representatives would contact the Office of Petitions to resolve the issue.